



January 25, 2021

Nadine Burke Harris, MD MPH
Chair, First 5 California
2389 Gateway Oaks Drive #260
Sacramento, CA 95833

Re: First 5 CA Commission Meeting: Reauthorization of the Small Population County Funding Augmentation- Item 8

Dear Dr. Burke Harris:

I am writing to express my strong support of the Small Population County Funding Augmentation (SPCFA), a funding stream that equitably distributes resources to ensure that children living in small population counties access services and supports that they otherwise would not have. This funding is vital to the rural Lake, Mendocino, and Del Norte counties I represent.

Service delivery looks different from county-to-county, especially rural counties. There are different partners, terrains, and logistics that need to be taken into account. The increased costs associated with geographical distance and the lack of available outside funding partners creates significant barriers to support children and families in these rural counties. SPCFA helps to address these exact barriers and enables these counties to provide critical services and build better systems of care. In this sense, SPCFA is one critical aspect to achieving equity for our hardest to reach children throughout the state.

Without SPCFA, children in Lake, Del Norte and Mendocino counties would not have critical child development and family strengthening supports that exist today, such as playgroups, parenting classes, kindergarten readiness initiatives, family resource centers, coordinated developmental screenings, and home visiting programs.

I urge you to give your full consideration to approve the SPCFA at your upcoming January commission meeting. If our offices can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call us at 916-651-4002, 916-319-2002, and 916-319-2004.

Warmest regards,

MIKE MCGUIRE
Senator

JIM WOOD
Assemblymember

CECILIA AGUIAR-CURRY
Assemblymember